



STAFF REPORT

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE FIRE SERVICES IN THE BELMONT, PUBLIC MEETING # 2

Honorable President and Board Members:

Summary

This is the second in a series of several public meetings scheduled to discuss future fire service alternatives in Belmont. Alternatives were presented in a staff report and companion analytical consultant report on this topic at the October 11, 2005 Board meeting. The October 11 staff report and consultant report are attached to this report.

To summarize the October 11 report, five proposals have been received for consideration. One, a proposal from Firefighters Local 2400, has been referred to our consultant Maze & Associates for analysis. The other four, City of San Mateo, City of Redwood City, Menlo Park Fire Protection District and California Department of Forestry/San Mateo County, are summarized in the Maze report attached.

In this report, staff provides the Board with updated information on events occurring subsequent to the October 11, 2005 presentation

Staff recommends that at tonight's meeting, the Board take action to:

- Remove Menlo Park Fire Protection District from further consideration; and
- Establish November 22 as the date for staff to present the Firefighters Local 2400 proposal to the Board; and
- Direct staff to meet with the remaining proposers to negotiate a model agreement with each; and
- Provide staff with direction regarding the standard of service to be negotiated; and
- Direct the Board Fire Subcommittee to continue to work with Staff in formulating policy recommendations; and
- Return to the Board on January 24, 2005 with a final recommendation for future fire service in the City of Belmont

Background

See the October 11, 2005 staff report and companion consultant report attached for full background on this issue.

Recap of October 11, 2005 Belmont Fire Protection District Board Meeting

Staff and Consultant Cory Biggs of Maze & Associates presented the analysis of the four proposals received. After discussion and public testimony, the Board made the following requests:

- Staff was requested to develop call volume information. This is in process.
- Staff was requested to provide the Maze report to interested Fire Chiefs. This has been done.
- Staff was requested to refer the Firefighters Local 2400 report to Maze & Associates for analysis similar to what was done with the other four proposals. This has been done.
- The Board expressed concern regarding the HazMat unit. Staff will prepare a separate report on the issue of the Hazmat unit for a future agenda.

Update on Activities Subsequent to the October 11, 2005 Board Meeting

- The Local 2400 Firefighters proposal has been referred to the City's consultant, Maze & Associates, for analysis and comparison. This analysis should be complete by the end of October. Staff suggests presenting findings at the November 22 Board meeting.
- City Manager Crist met with the South County Fire Authority Battalion Chiefs Rich Price, Dan Belville and Doug Frye on Wednesday October 12th. The Battalion Chiefs indicated a strong loyalty to the South County Authority and pledged to help with the alternatives analysis, as a resource on an as needed basis. They also counseled retention of the existing interagency cooperative operational arrangement whereby dispatch boundary drops occur.
- Staff, the City Manager, Chief Lowden and Finance Director Thomas Fil met with Menlo Park Board Chair Bart Spencer and Interim Fire Chief Doug Sporleder on Wednesday October 12. The Menlo Park representatives gave no indication they were willing to modify their proposal to make it more competitive. However, they did indicate the Board would be meeting Tuesday night October 18, that they would discuss the matter further at that meeting and that the City Manager could expect a phone call the following morning.
- Finance Director Fil and City Manager Crist met with the special fire finance committee (Members Bob Ledoux, John Violet & Howard Mason). The Commissioners offered to take this matter up if so directed by the new City Council after they are seated December 13. In the meantime, staff will be providing them with reports to keep them informed.
- The City Council of the City of San Carlos met on Wednesday night October 12

regarding future fire service in San Carlos. The City Council elected to keep all five proposals in play for further consideration. It would appear that the City of San Carlos may not take action on this matter until after the November Council election.

- A meeting of the Belmont Fire Subcommittee (Mayor Warden and Council Member Feierbach) is scheduled for Thursday October 20, 2005. Staff will report any policy recommendations from the Fire Subcommittee at the meeting Tuesday night October 25.
- A meeting has been scheduled with Firefighters Local 2400 for Thursday morning October 20, 2005 to review their written proposal.
- Staff has been invited to discuss Countywide Hazardous Material response unit service at the November meeting of the San Mateo County City Managers group.

Standard of Service to be Negotiated

In the October 11, 2005 staff report on Future Fire service, staff raised the policy issue of “service level configuration” or “standard” which you wish staff to negotiate with the proposers. Staff suggested a service level configuration of:

- Two Advanced Life Support (ALS)/Basic Life Support (BLS) engine companies; and
- A prorate portion of a truck company, say 25%. This prorate portion would be negotiated based on advice from the Chief as well as the providers.
- Termination of the Countywide HazMat unit as a responsibility of the City of Belmont. This function would then become the responsibility of the County. Belmont would continue to pay our fair share of the cost of the unit, which would be operated by another jurisdiction
- Fire Marshal, fire prevention, building inspection and plan check services equivalent to what currently exists in the City of Belmont.
- Term of contract to be a minimum of five years with an 18-month cancellation clause.

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact to this report. Funds necessary for legal counsel and other expenses related to terminating the JPA have been accounted for in the Mid Year Budget Review. Consultant costs will be paid from the existing professional services budget.

Public Contact

A copy of this report was sent to a wide distribution that includes local media, Fire Chief, Battalion Chiefs, Local 2400, the four proposers, City staff and Commissioners as well as the City of San Carlos.

The item was posted on the agenda as required by law. Copies of previous staff and consultant reports have been released to the public and widely distributed. The five proposals to serve Belmont were previously made public. Articles have appeared in local newspapers following the

October 11 Belmont Board meeting and the October 12 San Carlos City Council meeting.

Proposed Timetable

Staff recommends the following dates for future meetings on alternatives for future fire service in Belmont:

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| • Public Meeting #3 - Local 2400 Proposal | November 22 |
| • Public Meeting #4 - Final Recommendation, no action | January 24, 2006 |
| • Public Meeting # 5 - Final Recommendation, Action | February 14, 2006 |

Recommendation

Staff recommends that at tonight's meeting, the Board take action to:

- Remove Menlo Park Fire Protection District from further consideration. Reasons for this recommendation are contained in the attached staff report dated October 11, 2005; and
- Establish November 22, 2005 as the date for staff to present the Firefighters Local 2400 proposal to the Board; and
- Direct staff to meet with the remaining proposers during November and December to negotiate a model agreement with each; and
- Provide staff with direction regarding the standard of service to be negotiated; and
- Direct the Board "Fire Subcommittee" (Warden and Feierbach) to prepare a recommendation on a standard of service for consideration by the entire Board and continue to work with staff in formulating policy recommendations; and
- Return to the Board on January 24, 2005 with a final recommendation

Alternatives

1. Take no action at this time.

Attachments:

- A. City Council report dated October 11, 2005 related to Future Fire Service in the City of Belmont
- B. Maze & Associates consultant report dated September 30, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Jack R. Crist
Interim District Manager